AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 22-31, 34, 44 and 49-52 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter set forth herein.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1-27. (canceled)

- 28. (currently amended) The method of claim 22 A method for preparing an electrophoretic separation article comprising:
- i) providing a support comprising a silicon-containing material and washing at least a portion of a surface of said support for contacting an electrophoretic matrix with a weakly alkaline solution; and
- ii) filling or coating said support with an electrophoretic matrix;

thereby obtaining an electrophoretic separation article;

in which the electrophoretic matrix is a composition comprising acrylamide or a derivative thereof or a polymer thereof, and at least two organic solvents.

29-31. (canceled)

- 32. (currently amended) An electrophoretic gel comprising a polyacrylamide polymer or a polymer comprising an acrylamide derivative, and two or more organic solvents The electrophoretic gel of claim 29, in which one of the organic solvents is formamide.
- 33. (currently amended) The electrophoretic gel of claim—3132, in which a second organic solvent is—formamidean alcohol.
- **34.** (currently amended) The electrophoretic gel of claim 2932, which further comprises a water-soluble polymer.
- 35. (previously presented) The electrophoretic gel of claim 34, in which the water-soluble polymer is a dextran, polyethylene glycol or cellulose.
- 36. (previously presented) A process for preparing an electrophoretic gel comprising polymerizing a composition comprising acrylamide or a derivative thereof in the presence of at least two organic solvents.
- 37. (previously presented) The process of claim 36, in which the composition comprises a derivative of acrylamide that is N,N'-dimethylacrylamide or N-(hydroxymethyl)acrylamide.

- 38. (previously presented) The process of claim 36, in which one of the organic solvents is an alcohol.
- 39. (previously presented) The process of claim 38, in which the alcohol is methanol.
- 40. (previously presented) The process of claim 36, in which one of the organic solvents is formamide.
- **41.** (previously presented) The process of claim 38, in which a second organic solvent is formamide.
- 42. (previously presented) The process of claim 36, in which the composition further comprises a water-soluble polymer.
- 43. (previously presented) The process of claim 42, in which the water-soluble polymer is a dextran, polyethylene glycol or cellulose.

44. (canceled)

45. (previously presented) A process for electrophoretic separation of a sample comprising applying said sample to an

electrophoretic separation article comprising an electrophoretic gel comprising a polyacrylamide polymer or a polymer comprising an acrylamide derivative, and two or more organic solvents, and separating the sample by applying an electric field electrohoretic separation article.

- 46. (previously presented) The process of claim 45, in which the electrophoretic gel further comprises a dextran, polyethylene glycol or cellulose.
- 47. (previously presented) The process of claim 45, in which the sample comprises a nucleic acid or a peptide nucleic acid.
- 48. (allowed) The method of claim 45, in which the sample comprises a DNA or a RNA.
- 49. (currently amended) The method of claim 45, in which the polar organic solvent comprises formamide or an alcohol or a mixture thereof.
- 50. (previously presented) The method of claim 49 in which the alcohol is methanol.

51-52. (canceled)

53. (new) The electrophoretic gel of claim 33, in which the alcohol is methanol.